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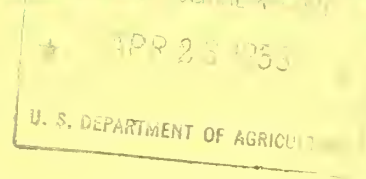
"We must open wider the doors of opportunity...
for the good of our country and all our people"
President Eisenhower

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NEWS

Committee for RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Under Secretary, Department of the Interior
Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Chairman)
Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
Under Secretary, Department of Labor
Under Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Administrator, Small Business Administration
Member, Council of Economic Advisers



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A Conference on the RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM will be held June 16 and 17 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. National leaders of non-government organizations will review progress in the program and the contribution of private groups to work in the pilot counties and areas. The conference has been called by the Committee for Rural Development Program.

Major national organizations working in such fields as agriculture, business, labor, education, conservation, health, welfare, youth programs and religious affairs will be represented at the Memphis conference. Government agencies taking part in the Rural Development Program and Land-Grant Colleges will also have representatives at the meeting.

Prominent leaders of many national organizations have already advised they will attend the Memphis meeting. These include: Charles B. Shuman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation; A. Z. Baker, Past President, Rotary International; Daniel P. Loomis, Chairman of the Board, Association of American Railroads; Carroll P. Streeter, Editor, Farm Journal; James C. Worthy, President, Sears, Roebuck Foundation; Charles N. Shepardson, Member, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; Frank R. Ahlgren, Editor, Memphis Commercial Appeal; Morris L. McGough, Vice President, Asheville (N. C.) Agricultural Development Council; Dr. Joseph Ackerman, Managing Director, Farm Foundation; and Harlee Branch Jr., President, The Southern Company. B. R. Sen, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, will also attend the meeting and participate in discussions.

Deans of Agriculture in all States and representatives of the 30 State rural development committees are also being invited.

MONTANA NAMES LAKE COUNTY; 63 COUNTIES, 9 AREAS NOW PARTICIPATING IN PROGRAM

their program. Ravalli County was designated late last year. More than 50 percent of the families in Lake have incomes of less than \$2500 a year. Agriculture and lumbering, both seasonal operations, are the main activities. The county has a large population of Indians. Sixty-three counties and 9 trade areas are now taking part in the program.

Montana's Rural Development Committee has named Lake County, in the northwestern part of the State, as the second pilot county in

This is one of a series of periodic reports on Rural Development Program activities of business, farm, civic, government and other community leadership working together. If you have information that might be of interest to those participating in the program or you wish to receive this Newsletter, address communications to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FHA EXPANDS CREDIT TO IMPROVE FARMS, HOMES

The Farmers Home Administration is expanding its loan programs to finance construction and repair of farm houses and other farm buildings, an action of major importance to rural development areas.

Credit under this expanded program will help farmers build or improve houses, barns and other buildings on their farms. Areas in which these loans are made should also experience an upswing in construction jobs and sales of building materials.

The Farmers Home Administration has offices in most rural counties, and the agency has opened additional offices in connection with the Rural Development Program.

IT'S RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula area, the program is called "Resource Development". Leaders in the area are working with agency personnel to improve resource use "across the board." Michigan State University recently opened an extension center for the Upper Peninsula, concentrating its many skills and technical aids on the complex economic problems found there.

Dr. Daniel W. Strut, director of the new center, describes the peninsula program as "strictly a community-in-action program. The people determine what resources they want to develop in each county."

Some counties in the Michigan Peninsula are concentrating on the tourist and resort business. Others are developing new industry. All of the peninsula's fifteen counties are active in the program -- promoting better farming, stressing new crops, better management and marketing. Resource development leaders start with the big advantage of a rich mineral and timber potential in the peninsula, and a brand new bridge to mainland Michigan.

NORTH DAKOTA INDIAN LEADERS REACH OUT FOR DEVELOPMENT IDEAS

With two of their leaders, Carl Whitman and Nathan Soldier, spearheading the project members of the Fort Berthold Reservation (North Dakota) Tribal Council are taking action to increase job opportunities in their area. They financed an economic study of local farm and non-farm resources. Whitman and Soldier visited Puerto Rico so study the island's successful "bootstrap" development program. They stopped in Washington to confer with Department of Interior officials and Under Secretary of Agriculture True D. Morse about Rural Development Program methods and procedures. Now they're about ready to organize an area-wide program of their own, proving once again that it just takes a few leaders to get things started.

CONGRESSIONAL UNIT RECOMMENDS YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Education and training for non-farm work, as well as farming, and improved youth counseling...expansion of local non-farm industries...additional employment information...these are some of the measures recommended in a recent Congressional report to help increase income in agricultural areas. The report, Policy for Commercial Agriculture, was issued in mid-February by the Joint Congressional Economic Committee. Success in programs such as these, says the report, "would have the most direct impact on noncommercial farm families but is essential to the ultimate success of income programs for commercial agriculture."

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

(Based on reports of rural development throughout the Nation,
including pilot counties and others.)

Pennsylvania Using money raised by public subscription, Connellsville Enterprises, a local development group in this rural Pennsylvania town, secured a new plant manufacturing storm windows and employing 30 workers.

Arkansas Madison County's annual "conservation information day" in mid-February featured the Rural Development Program as the main subject on the agenda -- Madison's Soil Conservation District chairman commented that "the Rural Development Program and the Soil Conservation Program dovetail to support each other."

Wisconsin Businessmen and others in the area of Rice Lake have bought a 71-acre tract for development as an industrial park, are planning several factory buildings as an inducement to industry.

Louisiana Franklin Parish will be the site of a new housing unit built especially for retired people, if present plans of the county Rural Development Committee go through. Local businessmen have agreed to finance the first units.

Iowa Under sponsorship of its enterprising development commission, Iowa held its fourth annual "industrial development clinic" February 27 and 28 to help community leaders throughout the State do a better job of industry promotion and development.

Ohio At a "brainstorming" session a few weeks ago attended by community leaders representing some 40 organizations, Guernsey County's Rural Development Committee obtained a clear-cut picture of needed improvements, and how agencies and local organizations can work together more effectively.

North Carolina First step in the State's progressive "small industries development program" was a survey, recently completed, of some 1000 large manufacturers in North Carolina to find out what parts and supplies they were buying outside the State which could be furnished by local small firms.

Kentucky The Ford Foundation has made a sizable grant to Berea College for a study of social and economic needs among rural families in the Appalachian Mountains; the University of Tennessee will also have a part in this project.

Alabama New or expanded industrial development took place in 42 of the State's counties during 1957, resulting in 8000 new jobs, according to a recent report of the Alabama Planning and Industrial Development Board.

Tennessee's Houston County, one of five pilot counties in that State, has just issued a handsomely printed and illustrated brochure which should prove a big asset in selling the area to outside businessmen and prospective vacationers. "Expanding your industry?" they ask, "We have low taxes, two buildings available, low-cost electric power, abundance of water, mild climate, an alert labor force, and water, rail and truck transport." The local chamber of commerce paid for publication of the brochure.

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT SHOWS
STEADY INCREASE IN HEALTH PROJECTS

A second progress report on health improvement work in Rural Development Program counties, issued March 30 by the Department of Agriculture, singles out some 25 important projects for special mention. Among the projects cited --

-- Each pilot county in Kentucky's Rural Development Program raised 5,000 dollars to match Federal aid for new health centers. None of these counties were able to achieve this before a development program was started.

-- In Hardin County, Tennessee, 50 percent more children are having preschool examinations as a result of rural development educational work.

-- Two hundred local people in Perry County, Indiana, volunteered as interviewers in a county-wide health survey. The Extension Service and State Board of Health directed the study.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, cooperating with the Public Health Service, prepared the health progress report. (For copies write Publications Office, Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington 25, D. C.)

WHAT AGENCIES ARE DOING

From time to time, we'll report on special projects of Federal and State agencies to promote economic development in program counties. Here are two examples --

-- The Small Business Administration, an independent Federal agency, recently made a 400,000 dollar loan to expand hardboard manufacturing in Price County, Wisconsin. Combined with funds from other sources, the SBA loan is helping a local company purchase machinery, and engineering services and construct a new building. About 35 people will be added to the plant's work force. Another seventy-five jobs cutting and transporting timber will result from the expansion.

-- South Carolina's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee has approved increased conservation payments for Chesterfield County to help farmers establish permanent cover on part of their acreage. The new rate applies only on farms that do not have any acreage of that type of cover, and is limited to five acres or less. In making the change, the committee pointed out that because of low incomes, many farmers in the county could not afford to pay 50 percent of the conservation cost, which was the old rate.

"Pulling Together for Greater Strength" is the theme of the Extension Service Review for March 1958, which is all about the Rural Development Program. Articles by Dr. Harry J. Reed, coordinator of the program, and Washington and State extension representatives discuss aims, organization and progress in rural development. (If you want a copy of this valuable issue of the Review, write Division of Information, Federal Extension Service, Washington 25, D. C.)